

Developing at the apex of a wave in the easterly flow in late September 1979, Tropical Storm Pamela tracked westward, north of the Mariana Islands, and dissipated in Typhoon Owen's eastern feeder band under strong vertical shear (Fig. 3-20-1).

A JTWC pressure-wind relationship study (Atkinson and Holliday, 1977) suggested TS Pamela's maximum intensity should have ranged between 25-30 kt (13-15 m/sec) for the concomitant 1002-1003 mb minimum sea-level pressure reported. Instead, aircraft data at 250827Z reported a very narrow,

transient wind band of 60 kt (31 m/sec) north and east of the surface center. The ARWO on this mission indicated that surface winds may have been even higher than the reported 60 kt (31 m/sec). Subsequent aircraft investigations were not able to locate winds greater than 25 kt (13 m/sec). The occurrence of maximum winds which exceed the range of the JTWC tropical cyclone pressure-wind relationship is encountered several times each season. Although several explanations have been offered for these anomalies, none have been substantiated.

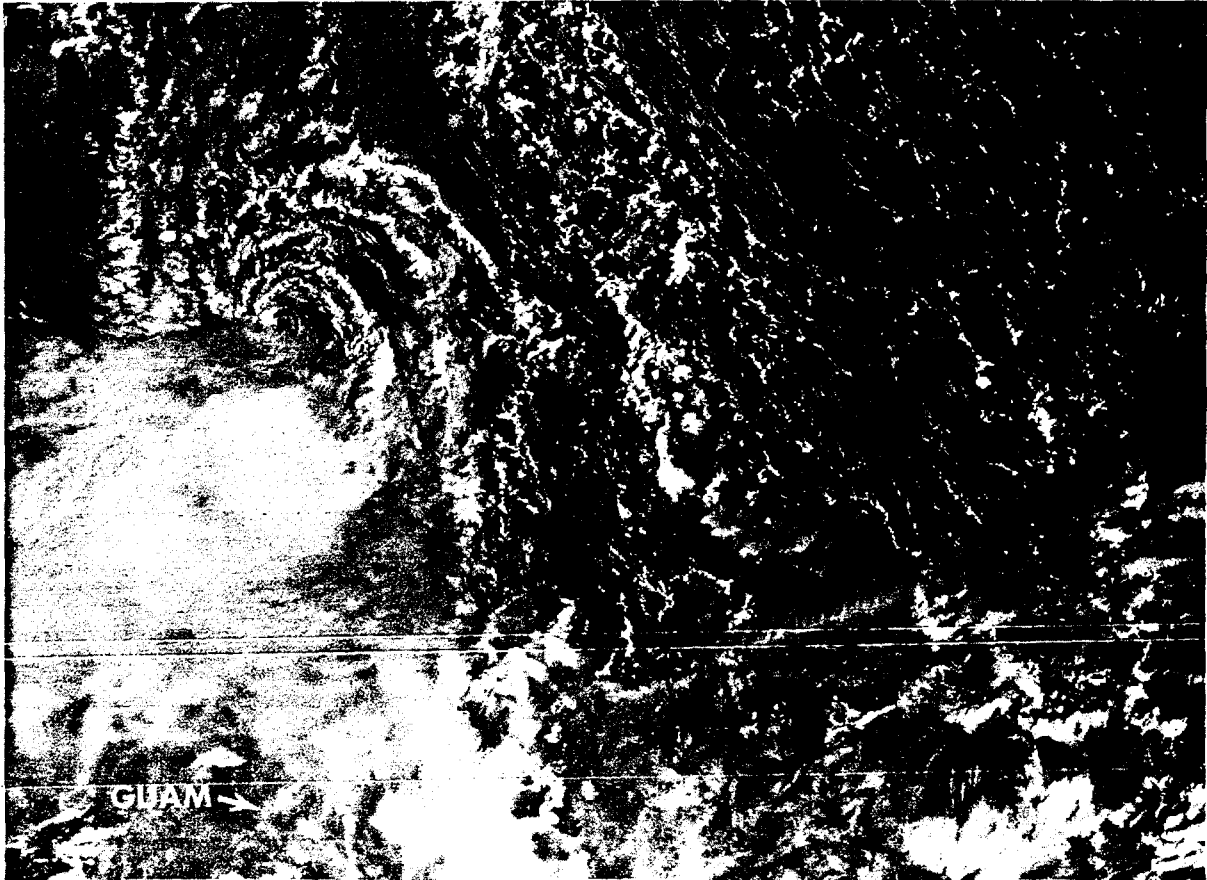


FIGURE 3-20-1. Tropical Storm Pamela with maximum sustained winds of 45 kt (23 m/sec), 24 September 1979, 2232Z. The exposed low-level circulation was a result of strong vertical shear produced by Typhoon Owen. (DMSP imagery)